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**Buddhai Sawan
Association of
North America**
Combat Arts of Thailand

Thai Terminology for Buddhai Sawan Krabi Krabong

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A draft document capturing basics of Thai pronunciation, terminology and vocabulary in Thai, preferred and conventional uses within Buddhai Sawan Krabi Krabong North America

- As a matter of principle, instructors of BSKK will learn, uphold and promote these conventions and ensure that students have a minimum level of proficiency
- The contents of this document have NOT been thoroughly reviewed by a Thai speaker

Thai Language and Romanized Phonetic Representation

The Thai language does not use the Latin-roman alphabet and most romanized representations are phonetic. This can result in a large amount of variation between the same word in Thai - the phonetic representations are approximate, Thai is tonal, and there are various pronunciations for the same word.

Notes:

- Thai is tonal and has five major inflections
 - Rising short (e.g. “six?”)
 - Rising long (e.g. “tree?”)
 - Rising glottal stop (e.g. “yup?”)
 - Neutral (most words in English - e.g. “door”)
 - Falling (e.g. “Oh, noooo.”)
- ‘h’ in various phonetic spellings denote a breathy pronunciation
 - Ex. like “who” in English (instead of “woo”)
 - E.g. “khru” is sounds more like “kr-who”, less like “crew”
- Different dialects exist in Thailand which pronounce Thai words somewhat differently. This leads to phonetic representations that are different - particular the appearance of ‘h’ versus ‘r’ for commonly used words - both of which are only rough approximations of the actual sound:
 - E.g. Ajarn vs. ajahn

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- E.g. Krabi vs kabri
- Various conventions:
 - 'h' for exhalation on phoneme
 - 'b' at end for glottal stop
 - 'r' instead of 'h' for alternate pronunciation
 - 'ng' for "nya" sound

Titles:

English	Thai phonetic	Alternates	Thai Written
Teacher	Khru		
Head instructor, professor rank	Ajahn	Ajarn, Pa khru	
Senior student, elder brother, sister	Phi chay	Phi saw (fem.)	
Junior student, younger brother, sister	Nung chay	Nung saw (fem.)	
Father, leader	Pa	Pa khru	

Weapons:

English	Thai phonetic	Alternates	Thai Written
Double sword (two hands)	Daab song mue		
Sword	Daab	Dha	
Spear	Hork	Hohk, hook	
Short spear	Hork sadt		
Halberd (bladed spear)	Ngao	Gnow	
Sabre	Krabi		
Forearm clubs	Mai sowk	Mae soks	

Shield	Lo		
Long shield	Kaeng lo		
Buckler (round shield)	Daeng lo		
Staff	Plong		

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Body Parts:

English	Thai phonetic	Alternates	Thai Written
Elbow	Sowk	Sok	
Head	Hua		
Body	Ao		
Leg	Kaa		
Neck	Kaw		

Techniques:

English	Thai phonetic	Alternates	Thai Written
Salutation, respects	Wai	Anjali	
Four directions, Thai war-dance, respects to teacher	Wai khru muay thai	Wai khru	
Dance	Ram	Ram muay	
Choreographed fight	Bang		
Tang	Thrust	Ketang (verb)	

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Upward strike	Soy		
Uppercut	Not		

Other words:

English	Thai phonetic	Alternates	Thai Written
One (1)	Nung		
Two (2)	Song		
Three (3)	Sam		
Four (4)	See		
Five (5)	Ha		
Six (6)	Ho		
Seven (7)	Jeb		
Eight (8)	Pad		
Nine (9)	Gow		
Ten (10)	Sib		
Thai fighters headdress	Mongkol	Mongkon	